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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,540	10/29/2003	Chet R. Douglas	42P17156	7574

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EXAMINER

HASSAN, AURANGZEB

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/697,540	<b>Applicant(s)</b> DOUGLAS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Aurangzeb Hassan	<b>Art Unit</b> 2182	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Specification***

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, and 25 are objected to in regards to the use of "at least in part." The use of such language causes redundancy and the examiner notes a lack of conciseness and clarity where the phrase "at least in part" is utilized.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The use of "at least in part" leaves a question in the meets and bounds of the claim language and what falls outside the scope of the "at least in part" that which is being claimed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim is too preliminary to particularly identify a practical application. The tangibility of the claim is not shown.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1, 5-9, 13-17, 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Allen et al. (US 6,895,453 hereinafter Allen).

9. Referring to a method of claim 1, apparatus of claim 9, article of claim 17, and system of claim 25, Allen teaches a method, apparatus, article and system comprising, generating an identifier to be associated with a group of at least two devices (elements 275, 280, 285 of figure 2), the identifier being generated based upon respective source identifiers of the at least two devices (column 8 lines 65 - 67, column 9 lines 1 - 9).

10. Referring to a method of claim 5, apparatus of claim 13, and article of claim 21 Allen teaches a method, apparatus, and article wherein,

at least one of the source identifiers comprises a vendor identification (column 9, lines 2 - 9).

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11. Referring to a method of claim 6, apparatus of claim 14, and article of claim 22 Allen teaches a method, apparatus, and article comprising,

extracting the vendor identification from a world wide name (element 255 of figure 2) identifying at least one of the at least two devices (column 5, lines 24 - 40).

12. Referring to a method of claim 7, apparatus of claim 15, and article of claim 23 Allen teaches a method, apparatus, and article wherein,

the at least two devices comprise physical devices (elements 275, 280, 285 of figure 2, column 9 lines 1 - 2)

13. Referring to a method of claim 8, apparatus of claim 16, and article of claim 24 Allen teaches a method, apparatus, and article comprising,

generating a world wide name (WWN) to be associated with the group of devices the WWN being generated based upon the identifier to be associated with the group of devices (elements 205, 210 and 215 of figure 2, column 7 lines 64 - 67, column 8 lines 1 - 19).

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14. Referring to a system of claim 26, Allen teaches a system wherein the circuit board also comprises a processor coupled to a bus; and the circuit card slot is also coupled to the bus (column 8 lines 29 - 31).

15. Referring to a system of claim 27, Allen teaches a system wherein a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) comprises the at least two devices (column 4 lines 55 - 65).

16. Referring to a system of claim 28, Allen teaches a system wherein the circuit card is coupled (Fibre Channel interconnect) to the RAID (column 4 lines 60 - 65).

17. Referring to a system of claim 29, Allen teaches a system wherein the circuit card is coupled to at least two devices via a network (Storage Area Networks, column 4, lines 37 - 45)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

18. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at

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the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

19. Claims 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Levitt (US Pat. 5,787,012).

20. Referring to a method of claim 2, apparatus of claim 10, and article of claim 18 Allen teaches a method, apparatus, and article wherein,

the respective source identifiers comprise respective numbers (column 9 lines 2 - 13); however Allen fails to explicitly teach generating the identifiers as:

rotating one of the respective numbers to generate a rotated number; and

performing a logical exclusive-or of the other of the respective numbers with the rotated number.

Levitt teaches an integrated circuit and method to generate identification numbers for a circuit using a logical exclusive-or (elements 60a, 60b, and 60c of figure 6, column 4 lines 50 - 65). Levitt also teaches a method of identification generation through means of rotation (column 5 lines 42 - 67, column 6

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lines 1 - 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Allen with the above teachings of Levitt. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in the generation of identifiers in a device oriented setting.

21. Referring to a method of claim 3, apparatus of claim 11, and article of claim 19 Allen teaches a method, apparatus, and article Allen fails to explicitly teach generating the identifier as:

rotating a value to generate a rotated value; and  
performing a logical exclusive-or of the rotated value  
with a result of the logical exclusive-or of the other of  
the respective numbers with the rotated number.

Levitt teaches an integrated circuit and method to generate changing identification numbers for a circuit by means of performing logical exclusive-or (elements 60a, 60b, and 60c of figure 6, column 4 lines 50 - 65). Levitt also teaches a method of identification generation through means of rotation (column 5 lines 42 - 67, column 6 lines 1 - 5). Levitt also teaches a method of identification generation through means of rotation

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(column 5 lines 42 - 67, column 6 lines 1 - 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Allen with the above teachings of Levitt. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in the generation of identifiers in a device oriented setting.

22. Referring to a method of claim 4, apparatus of claim 12, and article of claim 20 Allen in view of Levitt teaches a method, apparatus, and article wherein,

the value is based upon an activation time ("first time using SCSI device" column 11, lines 50 - 56).

### ***Conclusion***

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aurangzeb Hassan whose telephone number is (571) 272-8625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 AM to 5:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AH  
11/9/2005



KIM HUYNH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

11/18/05